

Abstract

It is an object of the present invention to provide a downsized optical rotary encoder with a high degree of detection accuracy capable of stabilizing a light amount monitoring signal even on the occurrence of an error generated at the stage of assembly,
5 adjustment and the like.

An optical encoder according to the present invention includes: a rotary slit plate having a rotation angel detection track formed by an optical slit; a light source for applying light to the optical slit; light receiving elements for rotation angle detection arranged in corresponding relationship with positions to which light emitted from the
10 light source is applied to the optical slit, thereby receiving the light emitted from the light source through the optical slit; and light receiving elements for light amount monitoring arranged at several locations on a circumference in corresponding relationship with positions to which light emitted from the light source is applied to the optical slit, thereby receiving the light emitted from the light source through the optical slit. In this optical
15 rotary encoder, the light receiving elements for light amount monitoring have an angular width that is an integral multiple of the angular interval of the intensity distribution, on surfaces of the light receiving elements for light amount monitoring, of light emitted from the light source and passed through the optical slit.